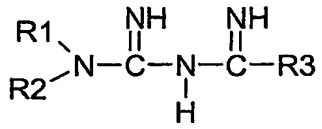
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Method for protecting the skin of a patient against the harmful effects of UVB radiation comprising the administration to a patient in need thereof of an effective amount of ~~Use of~~ a biguanide derivative of following general formula I:



(I)

in which:

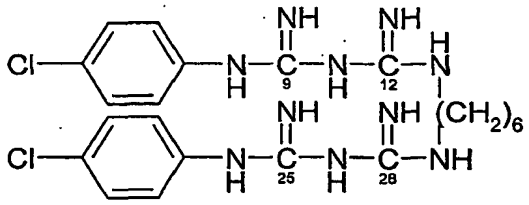
the R1 and R2 groups, independently of each other, represent a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_7 alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycle, a C_2-C_7 alkenyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, an aryloxylalkyl group or a heteroaryl group,

or R1 and R2 taken together represent a C_2-C_7 alkylene possibly containing one or more heteroatoms,

and the R3 group represents a primary, secondary or tertiary amine

or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt

with the exception of the compound of formula:



~~for the manufacture of a medicinal product intended to protect the skin against the harmful effects of UVB radiation~~.

2. (currently amended) Method according to ~~Use as in~~ claim 1 wherein the harmful effects of UVB radiation are ~~intended to protect the skin against~~ sunburn and skin cancers.

3. (currently amended) Method according to ~~Use as in~~ claim 1 wherein the harmful effects of UVB radiation are ~~or 2 to manufacture a medicinal product having protective action against~~ the photo immunosuppressive effect induced by UVB radiation on Langerhans cells.

4. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~Use as in any of the preceding claims~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the R1 and R2 groups, independently of each other, represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_7 alkyl group.

5. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~Use as in any of the preceding claims~~ wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the R3 group represents NH_2.

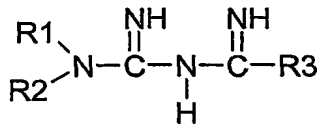
6. (currently amended) Method according to ~~Use as in~~ claim 5, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the derivative of biguanide is metformin~~, advantageously in the form of a hydrochloride~~.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~Use as in any of the preceding claims~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the derivative of biguanide or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt is combined with at least one other active ingredient.

10. (currently amended) Method for protecting the skin against the adverse and/or displeasing effects of UVB radiation comprising the administration to a patient in need thereof of an effective amount of ~~cosmetic use of~~ a biguanide derivative of following general formula I:



(I)

in which:

the R1 and R2 groups, independently of each other, represent a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_7 alkyl group, a cycloalkyl

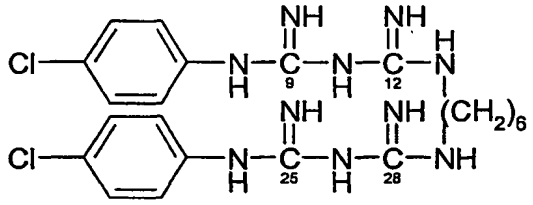
group, a heterocycle, a C_2-C_7 alkenyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, an aryloxylalkyl group or a heteroaryl group,

or R1 and R2 taken together represent a C_2-C_7 alkylene possibly containing one or more heteroatoms,

and the R3 group represents a primary, secondary or tertiary amine

or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt

with the exception of the compound of formula:



11. (New) Method according to claim 6 wherein the metformin is in the form of a hydrochloride.

12. (New) Method according to claim 1 wherein the biguanide derivative or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt are applied locally to the patient in need thereof.

13. (New) Method according to claim 1 wherein the biguanide derivative or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt are used in the form of a medicinal product which contains a suitable excipient and wherein the amount of biguanide derivative or of its pharmaceutically acceptable salt in said medicinal product is of 0.02 to 2 % by weight.